

What Is Claimed Is:

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1. A remote control apparatus for remote
controlling an image sensing apparatus by changing image
5 sensing conditions of the image sensing apparatus, said
remote control apparatus comprising:

map display means for displaying map information;

state display means for obtaining parameters of the
image sensing apparatus and displaying a position and
10 state of the image sensing apparatus on the map
information displayed by said map display means on the
basis of the parameters;

designation means for designating an image sensing
area to be sensed by the image sensing apparatus on the
15 map information; and

control value calculation means for calculating a
control value for controlling the image sensing
apparatus on the basis of the image sensing area
designated by said designation means.

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2. The remote control apparatus according to
claim 1, wherein said control value calculation means
calculates a direction and an angle of view of the image
sensing apparatus.

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3. The remote control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said state display means obtains the parameters of the image sensing apparatus at a predetermined time interval.

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4. The remote control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parameters includes a direction of the image sensing apparatus.

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5. The remote control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the parameter includes an angle of view of the image sensing apparatus.

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6. The remote control apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said control value calculation means calculates a rectangular area which circumscribes the image sensing area designated by said designation means, obtains X and Y coordinates of each vertex of the rectangular area on the map information, and determines a direction to the center of the rectangular area as a direction of the image sensing apparatus, and a smallest angle which includes all the vertices of the rectangular area is determined as an angle of view of the image sensing apparatus.

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7. An image sensing system which remote controls an image sensing apparatus by changing image sensing conditions of the image sensing apparatus, said system comprising:

- 5 map display means for displaying map information;
state display means for obtaining parameters of the image sensing apparatus and displaying a position and state of the image sensing apparatus on the map information displayed by said map display means on the
10 basis of the parameters;
designation means for designating an image sensing area to be sensed by the image sensing apparatus on the map information; and
control means for controlling the image sensing
15 apparatus on the basis of the designation by said designation means.

8. The image sensing system according to claim 7, wherein said control means controls a direction and an
20 angle of view of the image sensing apparatus.

9. The image sensing system according to claim 7, wherein said state display means obtains the parameters of the image sensing apparatus at a predetermined time
25 interval.

10. The image sensing system according to claim 7, wherein the parameters includes a direction of the image sensing apparatus.

5 11. The image sensing system according to claim 7, wherein the parameter includes an angle of view of the image sensing apparatus.

10 12. The image sensing system according to claim 7, further comprising control value calculation means for calculating a control value for controlling the image sensing apparatus on the basis of the image sensing area designated by said designation means and outputting the control value to said control means,

15 wherein said control value calculation means calculates a rectangular area which circumscribes the image sensing area designated by said designation means, obtains X and Y coordinates of each vertex of the rectangular area on the map information, and determines
20 a direction to the center of the rectangular area as a direction of the image sensing apparatus, and a smallest angle which includes all the vertices of the rectangular area is determined as an angle of view of the image
25 sensing apparatus.

13. A remote control method for remote controlling an image sensing apparatus by changing image sensing conditions of the image sensing apparatus, said method comprising:

5 a map display step of displaying map information;
 a parameter obtaining step of obtaining parameters of the image sensing apparatus;

 a state display step of displaying a position and state of the image sensing apparatus on the map
10 information displayed in said map display step on the basis of the parameters obtained in said parameter obtaining step;

 a designation step of designating an image sensing area to be sensed by the image sensing apparatus on the
15 map information; and

 a control step of controlling the image sensing apparatus on the basis of the designation in said designation step.

20 14. The remote control method according to claim 13, wherein, in said control step, a direction and an angle of view of the image sensing apparatus are controlled.

25 15. The remote control method according to claim 13, wherein, in said state display step, the parameters

of the image sensing apparatus are obtained at a predetermined time interval.

16. The remote control method according to claim
5 13, wherein the parameters includes a direction of the image sensing apparatus.

17. The remote control method according to claim
10 13, wherein the parameter includes an angle of view of the image sensing apparatus.

18. The remote control method according to claim
15 13, further comprising a control value calculation step of calculating a control value for controlling the image sensing apparatus on the basis of the image sensing area designated in said designation step and outputting the control value,

wherein, in said control value calculation step, a rectangular area which circumscribes the image sensing
20 area designated in said designation step is calculated, X and Y coordinates of each vertex of the rectangular area on the map information are obtained, and a direction to the center of the rectangular area is determined as a direction of the image sensing apparatus,
25 and a smallest angle which includes all the vertices of

the rectangular area is determined as an angle of view of the image sensing apparatus.

19. A computer program product comprising a
- 5 computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied in said medium for remote controlling an image sensing apparatus by changing image sensing conditions of the image sensing apparatus, said product comprising:
- 10 first computer readable program code means of a map display step for displaying map information;
- second computer readable program code means of a parameter obtaining step for obtaining parameters of the image sensing apparatus;
- 15 third computer readable program code means of a state display step for displaying a position and state of the image sensing apparatus on the map information displayed in said map display step on the basis of the parameters obtained in said parameter obtaining step;
- 20 fourth computer readable program code means of a designation step for designating an image sensing area to be sensed by the image sensing apparatus on the map information; and
- fifth computer readable program code means of
- 25 control step for controlling the image sensing apparatus on the basis of the designation in said designation step.